

Remarks

Claims 10 and 12 are amended.

Claims 22-24 are new.

Claims 13-16 are withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 and 17-21 were under consideration.

Upon entry of new claims 22-24, claims 1-12 and 17-24 will be under consideration.

Amendments to the claims

Claims 10 and 12 are amended to remove the term "knitted or bonded". These amendments are simply a removal of redundant matter.

New claims 22-24 are added to claim where component (b) are ethoxylated aliphatic acohols where R₁ is an alkyl of 28, 30 or 32 carbon atoms and x is 2 or 3. Support is found on page 6 of the specification, third paragraph.

No new matter is added with the present amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for reasons of record.

These rejections are addressed and are overcome with the present amendments to claims 10 and 12.

Claims 1-12 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Mor, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,146,757.

Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mor '757.

Mor '757 requires that the first wetting agent incorporated into the thermoplastic polymer is an ethoxylated alkylphenol, as pointed out by the Examiner. There is no overlap between these alkylphenol compounds and the present compounds of formula (I).

Mor '757 does teach a second wetting agent that may be an alkoxylated fatty alcohol. According to this reference, fatty alcohols are primary alcohols having from about 8 to about 20 carbons (col. 9, lines 23-27).

Present compounds of formula (I) require R₁ to be an alkyl of from 22 to 40 carbon atoms. There is no possible overlap of the disclosure of Mor with the present claims. Therefore the present claims are not anticipated nor can they be obvious over the disclosure of Mor.

Applicants submit that in light of the present discussion, that the art rejections are addressed and are overcome.

In view of the present amendments and the above discussion, Applicants submit that the present 35 USC 112, second paragraph, 35 USC 102(e) and 35 USC 103(a) rejections are each addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Fee Letter for additional claims